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REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on January 13, 2005. In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-18. The Applicant respectfully points out, however, that claims 1-22 are pending in the Application. With this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 12 and has canceled claim 11. It is respectfully believed that claims 1-18 are in condition for allowance. In addition, it is respectfully believed that since no substantive rejection was made, claims 19-22 are also in condition for allowance.

The Specification was objected to as having informality. Accordingly, the Specification has been amended.

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over any one of the following references: Graeve (US 6,475,270), Ueki et al. (US 6,712,887) and Borocon et al. (US 6,740,145). It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references teach or suggest all of the claim elements of independent claims 1 and 12.

Claim 1 has been amended to include "an enclosure configured to house components of the data storage system". Claim 12 has been amended to include "providing an enclosure configured to house components of the data storage system". Accordingly, claim 11 has been canceled.

The Examiner indicated that item 120 of FIG. 6a and item 32 in FIG. 1 of Graeve renders claims 1 and 12 obvious. However, Graeve does not teach or suggest "an enclosure configured to house components of the data storage system, the enclosure having an inner surface and an outer surface" and "an aperture extending between the outer surface and the inner surface of the enclosure, wherein the aperture has a larger cross-section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner surface". Furthermore, FIG. 12 of Graeve discloses features that correspond with features that were discussed on page 4, line 27 through page 5, line 16 of the Specification. The Specification contemplates that these features are undesirable features. In contrast, the present invention provides advantages over these prior art techniques.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 12 are in condition for allowance over Graeve. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-10 and 13-18 are also allowable over Graeve as depending on allowable base claims.

Ueki et al. does not teach or suggest "an enclosure configured to house components of the data storage system, the enclosure having an inner surface and an outer surface" and "an aperture

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extending between the outer surface and the inner surface of the enclosure, wherein the aperture has a larger cross-section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner surface". In particular, the breather hole of the container in Ueki et al. does not have "a larger cross-section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner surface". As discussed with respect to Graeve, FIG. 7 of Ueki et al. contemplates features that correspond with features that were discussed on page 4, line 27 through page 5, line 16 of the Specification. The Specification contemplates that these features are undesirable features. In contrast, the present invention provides advantages over these prior art techniques.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 12 are in condition for allowance over Ueki et al. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-10 and 13-18 are also in condition for allowance over Ueki et al. as depending on allowable base claims.

Boroson et al. does not teach or suggest a "an enclosure configured to house components of the data storage system, the enclosure having an inner surface and an outer surface" and "an aperture extending between the outer surface and the inner surface of the enclosure, wherein the aperture has a larger cross-section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner surface".

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 12 are in condition for allowance over Boroson et al. In addition, claims 2-10 and 13-18 are in condition for allowance over Boroson et al. as depending on allowable base claims.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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